

North High School Summer Reading

Grade 11

Students who are lifelong readers become more successful in their academic classes as well as in their careers after graduation. People who read well also write better, have larger vocabularies, score higher on tests, and communicate more effectively. In order to help promote a joy of reading, each student at North High will choose one book from the following list: books are organized by genre; **we suggest parents and students together select thoughtfully and carefully from the list.** Books that have CDE listed after them are on the California Department of Education suggested reading list. Students are required to complete an essay for their chosen book at any point over the summer. Copies of this list are available on the North High School website or in the school office. Students in an AP class will be contacted separately about their specific assignment(s).

Coming of Age/ Peer Pressure/ Relationships

1. *The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak. Death narrates this story of a young girl who finds solace in books during the Holocaust.
2. *Cut* Patricia McCormick. Callie, a fifteen-year-old, is a “cutter” who seeks help for her self-destruction.
3. *I Am the Messenger*, Markus Zusak. A botched bank robbery changes a nineteen-year-old's life.
4. *Snitch*, Allison van Diepen. A teen tries to navigate between rival gangs.
5. *Strays*, Ron Koertge. Ted's parents are killed in a car crash, and his troubles are just beginning.
6. *Thirteen Reasons Why*, Jay Asher. A teenager receives haunting audiotapes after a suicide.
7. *Twisted*, Laurie Halse Anderson. Tyler, busted for tagging, tries to find his way through his senior year.

Fantasy/Science Fiction/Vampire

1. *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, Libba Bray. The School Library Journal calls this novel “an interesting combination of fantasy, light horror, and historical fiction, with a dash of romance thrown in for good measure.”
2. Wheel of time series, Robert Jordan. The world has been broken by a phenomenal power in this series that is reminiscent of J.R.R. Tolkien.
3. The Gemma Doyle Trilogy, Libba Bray. Gemma, who has visions, travels to other worlds.
4. *Unwind*, Neal Shusterman. The story centers around three youths who have been scheduled to be unwound: a process of harvesting body parts for later use.
5. *Mrs. Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, Ransom Riggs. A boy follows clues that take him to an abandoned orphanage on a Welsh island.

Memoir and Nonfiction

1. *Monster: The autobiography of an L.A Gang Member*, Sanyika Shakur. The personal account of an L.A gang banger
2. *U.S. Army Survival Handbook*, Department of the Army. How to survive under the most adverse conditions.

Poetry

1. *Crank*, Ellen Hopkins. A teenagers struggle with crystal meth, told in poetic form.
2. *Glass*, Ellen Hopkins. This picks up Crank a year later.
3. *Burned*, Ellen Hopkins. Growing up in an abusive household, told in verse.

Mystery

1. *Falling*, Christopher Pike. FBI agent Kelly Feinman is on the trail of the “Acid Killer”
2. *Crazy Little Things*, Adam P. Knave. Twelve very strange tales.

Classics

1. *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, Ernest Hemingway. The story of Robert Jordan, a young American dynamiter, assigned to blow up a bridge during an attack on the city of Segovia during the Spanish Civil War. (CDE)
2. *A Farewell to Arms*, Ernest Hemingway. A doomed romance between Henry and a British nurse, against the backdrop of the First World War, cynical soldiers, fighting and the displacement of populations.

3. *The Awakening*, Kate Chopin. Set in the South at the end of the nineteenth century, the plot centers around Edna Pontellier and her struggle to reconcile her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century South.
4. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston. The story of Janie Crawford's life and journey including three major periods corresponding to her marriages to three very different men. (CDE)
5. *The Tempest*, William Shakespeare. This play combines elements of both tragedy and comedy. Prospero—a magician on an enchanted island—punishes his enemies, brings happiness to his daughter, and comes to terms with human use of supernatural power. (CDE)